

India Company

Dear 3/7 Family and Friends,

Greetings to all the India Company family members. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not had the opportunity to meet. My name is Captain Brad Tippet. My wife Kamey and I along with our two children, Nate and Maddie, come to you all from a year of school in Quantico, VA. Even though I have only been here a few short months, I can say without a doubt that there is no place I would rather be than here in India Company serving our Marines.

The last few months have seen some significant events in the company's life. I would like to start by congratulating all the newlywed couples in the company: LCpl Johnson and Shenoa, HN Visarraga and Kathleen, LCpl Ray and Anna, Lt Wright and Julie, LCpl Shranko and Julie, LCpl Sampson and Shannon, LCpl Clancy and Joann, LCpl Crowley and Tifani, LCpl Shumway and Bobbi, Cpl Hirz and Renee, and LCpl Wiggins and Leslie. Congratulations to all of you on this first of many joyous days to come.

Several of our Marines saw promotions over the past few months. Our NCO pool continues to grow as Marines rank catches up with their level of performance. We are sure to see more promotions in the coming months to many deserving Marines.

As is always the case, we have had several Marines depart the company since the company completed its deployment. A special farewell goes out to 1stSgt Martin and his family who will be moving over to Weapons Company. The valuable leadership and support given will remain with the company in your absence. To all of those who have departed we wish you all fair seas and following winds. You will be missed.

As you well know the company's upcoming deployment will be a trying time for all hands. We will do our best to keep you all informed of the many important pieces of information that are sure to come. Our families are truly the support on which we operate. It is my goal that you all in return receive from us, all the support and care we can provide. I look forward to the opportunity to serve both you and our Marines. Take care and God Bless.

B. W. TIPPETT



Lima Company

Family, friends, and supporters:

After a final month in Karbala, a month of redeployment activity in Kuwait and 29 Palms, a month of post deployment leave, and four months of training for redeployment to Iraq, Team Lima has responded rapidly to continuous change in focus. Your support carried us through the tough final months of the last campaign, and will most certainly be crucial to our success in theater during the second round.

During the last two months in Iraq, the company's tempo of operations increased to an all time high. Moving into our final firm base in Karbala, we assumed tactical responsibility for the entire city. Aggressively patrolling the urban area, the Marines and Sailors showed great mettle and perseverance, even as we eagerly anticipated the long awaited retrograde. Never letting up until the end, our NCOs were innovative in their efforts to collect information, pacify the population, and provide continuous security to the large metropolitan area. Our young leaders aggressively stopped the few belligerents we encountered

during the period and the company's continuous presence effectively deterred the kind of attacks witnessed in the previous month. At the



completion of a very successful turnover with Bulgarian Armed Forces, we said our goodbyes to the many Karbalans who were disappointed to see us leave. On 23 August, we boarded helicopters enroute to Kuwait. In only a matter of days, we were home in 29 Palms at last. The well deserved post-deployment leave period followed soon thereafter.

Although our post-deployment recovery period proved surprisingly short, it was certainly needed after a difficult year of continuous operations. Soon after returning from leave, we were directed to prepare for another mission in Iraq. Over the past four months, the company has worked hard to prepare again to operate successfully in combat. A squad evaluation, tough physical training, live fire training exercises, and two week long security/stability operations training packages in Twentynine Palms and Riverside, CA were the highlights of our training. At this juncture, Team

Lima is well prepared for our pending deployment and the many missions that will come with it. Our squad leaders are amongst the finest and well prepared in the Marine Corps, and ready to lead under the harsh conditions that may await us.

During this period, we also said goodbye to over 60 of our long time veterans, and welcomed over 80 new members. Most of our young Marine leaders are serving in challenging billets well above their rank and gaining great experience. We also welcomed a number of new members to the extended Lima Family as LCpls Beaver, Lugo, Smith, Talavera, Tulmau, Valdez, and Whittier were married during the period.

There have been numerous individual accomplishments during the period for the Team Lima. Sgt Edgell was selected as the *7th Marine Regiment NCO of the Year* and Cpl Soudan was the regimental selection for Meritorious Promotion to Sergeant. HM3s Heidrich and Purviance; LCpls Randall, Blea, Wright, Coleman, and Villegas; Cpls Helm, Lightfoot, Heath, Gehrke, and Mejia; Sgt Cochrane, SSgt Wilder, and 1stLt Carroll were promoted to their current ranks. PFC Blea; LCpls Barrs, Caton, Daisy, Girard, Heath, Lemieux, Layton, and Rogers; and Cpl Valdez received the *Meritorious Mast*. LCpls Hayes and Johnson, and Cpls Chavarria, Gibson, Lanzi, and Olmstead received the *Certificate of Commendation*. LCpls Bilderback and Fallah; Cpls Milinkovich, Langley, Laughlin, Piccoli, and Richardson; and Sgts Gonzalez, Ristaino, and Wilder received the *Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal*. LCpls Helm, Jaramillo, and Randall; LCpl Blair; Cpls Soudan, Brueck, McCauley, Potts, and Talbot; and SSgt Crippen received the *Good Conduct Medal*. Additionally, most members of the company received the *Combat Action Ribbon*.

In closing, I want to thank all those who supported us during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. The company's performance was remarkable throughout the nearly eight months we were deployed, and would not have been that way without your thoughts, prayers, and support. We are extremely grateful of the fact that every Company L Marine and Sailor who deployed is back home today. That alone is a true measure of success, and a great testament to the incredible performance of our team. I will thank you ahead of time for the great support you will provide us during the upcoming deployment.

R. J. GANNON



L Lifestyle means a new way of life. Now you are married to a Marine, you will experience a way of life that in many respects is different from the civilian society you are used to.

I Marine Corps lifestyle **Insights** can only be passed on by those who know what it's like, the real experts in Marine Corps living, the experienced Marine Corps spouses!

N Networking represents the people you get to know during L.I.N.K.S. and all the many others you will meet during your journey in Marine Corps living.

K Knowledge is what the class is all about – giving you a great deal of useful and credible information.

S Participants take the knowledge they've gained and develop their **Skills** to help them flourish in their new Marine Corps lifestyle.

Upcoming L.I.N.K.S. Schedule

February 24-26 5-8 p.m.

March 23-24

April 27-28

Battalion Commander

As the Battalion deploys to western Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF) we do so knowing that we are well trained and will overcome any challenge thrown our way. The support and endless sacrifices of our families during the preparation and now the deployment phase will help guarantee our success safe return. I want to personally thank you for your sacrifices, support and prayers. I assure you, your Marine will be well cared for and I maintain our commitment to supporting our families while we are deployed.

1st Lt Carlos Huerta will be my direct representative here in 29 Palms. He will be the Family Readiness Officer to support the Key Volunteer Network (KVN) and the Extended Family Readiness Program (EFRP) as well as the Officer in Charge of our Remain Behind Party. The KVN will support the wives and immediate families of the battalion while the EFRP will support the extended families of the battalion. Lt Huerta has extended on active duty to execute these duties. He and his wife are veterans of our first OIF deployment. He will be located in the Battalion Command Post and will have constant connectivity to the battalion in Iraq. He is here to help me support your needs.

I would like to thank Sally Gannon and all of our Key Volunteer Coordinators and participants for their magnificent stewardship of the battalion's KVN program. Chaplain Slater has stepped right in and kept our program on track. It's not too late to get more involved with the KVN. The battalion's web page and hotline are fully operational and will be updated regularly.



We will bring you stories, pictures, and updates on our activities via this newsletter. We will look forward to getting the newsletter in Iraq to receive the same from the KVN. Our return will be planned along the same lines as our return from OIF. We will share with you the latest information as that time nears.

I could not be prouder than to be part of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines as we are once again called into action. The Global War On Terrorism is about taking the fight to foreign shores to protect our families here at home. Once again 3/7 will be "The Cutting Edge".



Chaplain's Word

It is a great honor to join the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines as your new chaplain.. I bring with me four years of prior enlisted service in the Air Force, over 14 years of pastoral experience, 25 wonderful years of marriage to the "love of my life," Tracie, and the joys and challenges of raising two, now grown, children – Christy (23 yrs.) and Eric (20 yrs.). I have been the 1/7 Battalion Chaplain for the past year and just returned from an 8 month deployment, so I personally understand the challenges combat deployments bring to marines, sailors and their families.

I am an ordained, protestant minister endorsed by the Berean Fellowship.

However, it is my commitment to be your chaplain regardless of your religious beliefs



and will do my best to facilitate the free exercise of all religious faiths. As an experienced pastor and counselor please know that I am available any time to support you and your family. It is my joy to serve.

Whatever your faith might be, times like the present test us all and I can think of no better encouragement to you than to emphasize the need for **character**. First and foremost, please know that God loves you and deeply values you as a person uniquely created in his image. He truly wants to have a personal relationship with you! His wonderful promise to us is, " 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. And I will be found by you', declares the Lord" (Jer. 29:13-14a). Take God up on His promise. Strive to know Him and love Him because good character will be one of the many benefits of a right relationship with God.

Some of the qualities God forms in our hearts need to be guarded. Honor, courage, commitment, morality, integrity, and loyalty are values to be carefully and consistently kept. Other qualities are to be freely and fully given. Love, generosity, compassion, understanding and forgiveness are but a few that we would do well to share. It takes both guarding and giving to be a person of character and only God can help us consistently do both. As Aristotle once wrote, "To enjoy the things we ought and to hate the things we ought has the greatest bearing on excellence of character."

As we seek God, and he delights to let us find Him, from

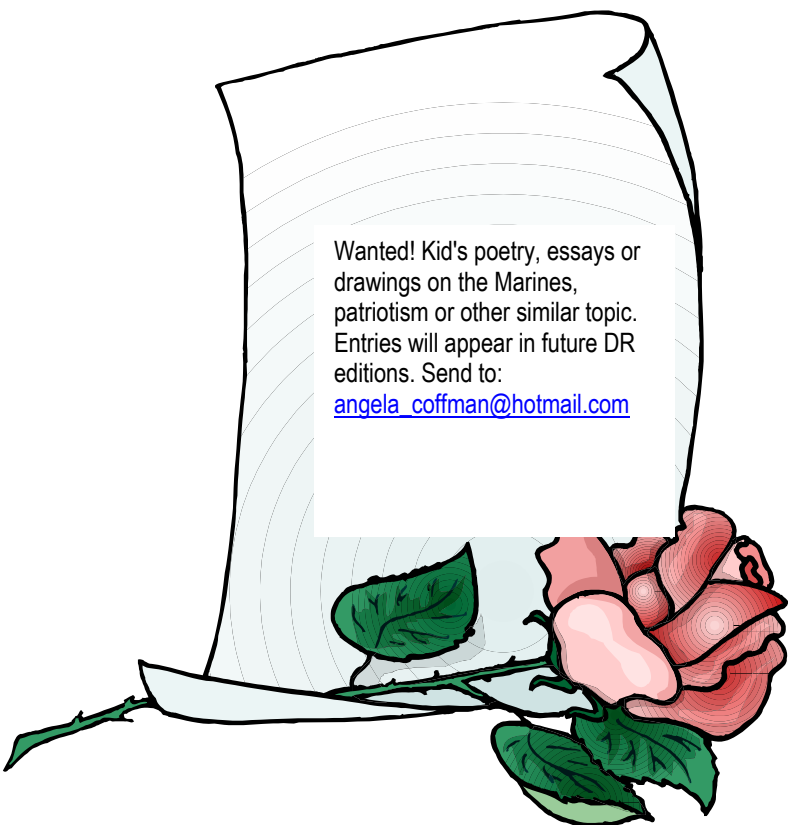
our lives and personalities will flow an unselfish sense of right and wrong, strong convictions, an ethical compass, a lifelong commitment to your spouse and children, discipline and determination, a refusal to quit when the going gets tough, love for our country's freedom, respect for authority and a joy of life the Apostle Peter describes as "inexpressible and full of glory" (I Pet. 1:8).

This is an eternal journey with God I encourage all of you to desire and embrace. There is no time like the present and if I can be of help to you in any way please let me know. – Chaplain Dave Slater

Operation Iraqi
Freedom (OIF)
Hotline
1-866-227- 2708
Press 3



Wanted! Kid's poetry, essays or drawings on the Marines, patriotism or other similar topic. Entries will appear in future DR editions. Send to:
angela_coffman@hotmail.com



The Key Volunteer Network is a communication network designed to provide information, referral, and support to families within their unit. The KVN provides professional training and development, learning for a lifetime, encouragement, empowerment and fun.

KVN Training Dates

February 17-19, 9 a.m. to noon

March 16-18, 5-8 p.m.

April 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Weapons Company

Dear Family and Friends:

I would like to first let everyone involved with the Key Volunteer Network and all the other friends and supporters of the Marines of Weapons Company, know what an honor it is to be a part of such a distinguished group of Marines and sailors. We have been quite busy with everything from embarkation issues, training and preparing for our next deployment. I hope that you all were able to spend some quality time with your loved ones during the Christmas holiday and do any catching up that you needed to.

Weapons Company has done a superb job of handling all of the challenges that have been presented to us and we certainly could not have done it without your support.

Thank you once again for being there for us!

For those of you who don't know, our Company played a crucial role in the battalion's success during our final months in Iraq. We had several demanding

tasks that needed to be accomplished in order for our peacekeeping mission to be successful. Our Heavy Guns Platoon found itself in Muhamidiya in support of Task Force Scorpion, an effort led by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division to combat the activities of Former Regime Loyalists operating in an area about 15 kilometers south of Baghdad.

"Heavy Guns" conducted a significant number of raids on key personnel as well as search and seizures of numerous weapons cache sites. Their primary mission was achieved with great success after providing ironclad security along route "Sue", the main road from Baghdad to south-central Iraq. Meanwhile, the remaining elements of Weapons Company continued to do great things in the holy city of Karbala and its surrounding areas.



Our Anti-Armor platoon worked tirelessly to assess and address the security needs of local communities and provide escorts of food and oil convoys moving throughout our "Area of Operations". Our 81mm Platoon reinforced these efforts and also provided mobile support to the rest of the Battalion anywhere in the city and at any time. I am happy to report that our efforts reaped great rewards; very little enemy resistance was detected or reported in our area and the civilian populace felt relieved and blessed to have us supporting them. Semper Fi!

After saying an emotional goodbye to the good people of Karbala and Muhamidiya, Weapons Company returned home back to their loving families and friends. Since our return, over 50 of our brothers have ended their proud years of service or have moved on to other assignments in the Corps. I ask that you all pray for their safety and success in the coming times; they are truly exceptional Marines.

Many of our Marines are continuing to do great things back home with us. Recent promotions include Cpl Dale, LCpl Xiong, Cpl Saganichne, LCpl Forner, who were promoted to their current ranks and a re-enlistment by Cpl Longoria. LCpl Self and HN Cook both received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" while Sgt Good and Sgt Guffey received the Navy and Marine Corps achievement medal. Let's all wish Sgt Guffey the best of luck as he heads to Parris Island for Drill Instructor School.

LCpl Jackmovich recently won the Meritorious Corporals Board and SSgt Laucht and Corporal Valerio have both returned from attending Staff NCO Career Course and Corporals Course, respectively. Finally, Pfc Doyle, Pfc Walker, Cpl Cervantes and Cpl Helker received Purple Hearts for wounds received in a combat environment. Weapons Company would like to wish Pfc Dole a very speedy recovery and we look forward to having him back with us in the near future. We would like to give a warm welcome to GySgt Holland, SSgt Lassater, 1st Sgt Martin and their families to "our" family.

Our beloved 1st Sgt Humphries, who was recently selected to Sergeant Major, will be moving on to greener pastures. He will be heading to I and I duty at Fort Lewis, Washington and we all know he will do a super job up there. WE WILL MISS YOU. You were a crucial part of the success of this company over the past 2 years and were an awesome example to us all. Best of luck to you, Lisa and your great kids 1st Sgt. Just make sure you sign for those SAPI plates.

Regardless of what our next mission is, we will be ready. Our readiness will be achieved by conducting effective training, looking out for each other and the support our families and friends will give us.

You, all of the friends, families and supporters of the Key Volunteer Network, are a pertinent part of the success of our Company in achieving any mission we receive in the future. Thank you all for being there for us and we will continue to make you proud. Semper Fidelis.

T.R. POWLEDGE



H & S

I'd like to first introduce myself. I have had the opportunity to meet some of the families of the Marines and sailors of H&S Company, but there are still many that I have not met. I am Captain Barron Mills and I've had the privilege of serving as the H&S Company Commander since late October 2003.

As you all know well, the Marines and sailors of H&S Company have been extremely busy for the past months. A combination of personnel changes, new personnel joining the battalion, and essential training requirements have forced us to operate at a very high tempo. I know that this has been a strain on our families, but I greatly appreciate the understanding and patience that you have all shown in supporting your husbands and fathers. The sole purpose of our aggressive preparation has been to ensure that we bring everyone back home safe and sound.

Your Marines and sailors have been doing great things. The members of H&S Company have a tougher job than the other companies of the battalion. H&S Company personnel have to not only support the daily training of

the other companies and run the battalion, but they also need to complete the same training requirements as the other companies. This has required many extra hours and days of work, but we will all appreciate that time spent away from our families when it allows us to return in the fall and spend a month of leave with our wives and children.

While your husbands and fathers will not be around for most of the year, no one should feel alone. As always, we have an established Key Volunteer Network to keep everyone informed on what is happening with the battalion in Iraq and the families back home. I encourage everyone to live where they feel comfortable during the deployment, whether that be in 29 Palms or somewhere else. Wherever you go, please keep our Key Volunteers informed of new addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses so that we can all stay connected. Additionally, there are some Marines staying behind with the responsibility to assist with issues. Please keep them informed of any concerns you may have.

This time last year, 3/7 was deployed with a lot of uncertainty about the future. This time we should all have some comfort in knowing where the unit will be conducting operations, knowing what our mission is, and knowing when we can expect to be home. Again, I appreciate your support of our profession and look forward, along with the other Marines and sailors, to seeing your smiling faces upon our successful return from Iraq this fall. We are all one family and your faith in us is crucial to our success. Semper Fidelis

Captain Barron Mills

Address for Letters and Packages

To Mail Letters And Packages To The Marines And
Sailors Of
The Battalion Use The Appropriate Address:

PERSONAL MAIL

PERSONAL MAIL

GRADE NAME USMC
3RD BN 7TH MAR (SECTION)
UIC 41570
FPO AP 96426-1570

GRADE NAME USMC
HS CO 3/7 (SECTION)
UIC 41575
FPO AP 96426-1575

GRADE NAME USMC
I CO 3/7 (SECTION)
UIC 41580
FPO AP 96426-1580

GRADE NAME USMC
K CO 3/7 (SECTION)
UIC 41585
FPO AP 96426-41585

GRADE NAME USMC
L CO 3/7 (SECTION)
UIC 41590
FPO AP 96426-41590

GRADE NAME USMC
WPNS CO 3/7 (SECTION)
UIC 41595
FPO AP 96426-1595



On 21 March, 2003, the First Marine Division crossed from Kuwait and began "Operation Iraqi Freedom." This mural is dedicated to the men and women of the Armed Forces, especially the Marines and Sailors from the Marine Corps Combat Center in Twentynine Palms depicted here

Dedication Date: January 31, 2004
Location: North wall of Collins
Computer Innovations on Adobe Road
Artist: Don Gray

Courtesy: Action Council for 29 Palms, Inc.

**Mail a
carepackage at the
MCX from
10-6, March 11**

Phone Numbers & Legal Information

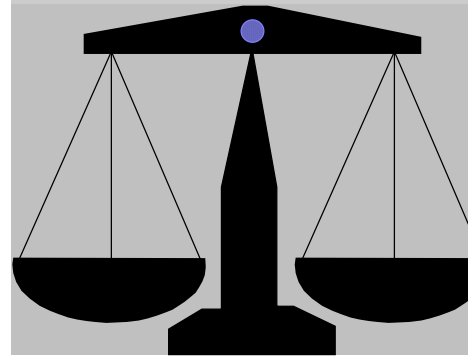
If On-Base with a Cell Phone, Emergency #	830-3333
American Red Cross	830-6685 (877) 272-7337
Child Care Resource & Referral	830-3227
Barbara Greenbush (MCFTB Coordinator)	830-4163
PMO	830-6800
Community Support Services	830-6344
3/7 Hotline	830-1538 (800) 759-7602
Taxes	830-4829
Legal Office	830-6111
IPAC	830-1818
Fort Sill National Bank	830-3744
Marine Pacific Credit Union	830-6103
Family Readiness Officer	
Hospital Quarter Deck	830-2190
Housing Maintenance	830-6528 after hours: 1-866-358-9502

The Legal Assistance Office is located at Bldg. 1514. The LAO offers help with bills of sale, affidavits, power of attorney, income taxes, wills, notarizations, and a variety of other legal needs.

Spouses with dependents should get a power of attorney stating who would provide child care in the event the spouse cannot. If no one is able to care for the children, they could potentially be taken in by the State.

Call the LAO for help with your power of attorney at extension 6111.

Walk-ins are welcome Tues. at 0800 and Thurs. at 1300 for the first six persons or until filled. Appoints accepted M 0800-1030, W 0900-1100 Th 0800-1030.





Desert Rose

FEBRUARY 2003

EDITOR: ANGELA DOLDER

Proudly Serving The Families of 3/7

Deployment Survival Guide

We all knew it was coming and now that our Marines are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 (OIF 2) the Desert Rose is your source for all the latest information. In future issues you'll find pictures from our guys in Iraq, events aboard the base, messages from the command and much more!



Marines from 3/7 India Company in action in Iraq last March

In this Issue of the Desert Rose

Comments from the Command
Chaplain's Message
Useful Contact Information
MCX Shipping Day
Wanted: Kid's Poetry



Battalion Commander: Lt. Col Mathew
Executive Officer: Maj Henderson
Sergeant Major: Daniel A. Huff
FRO: 1st Lt. Carlos Huerta
Key Volunteer Coordinator: Sally Gannon
Key Volunteer Advisor: Lynn Lopez